



Policy Brief

Encouraging Government-Foundation Partnerships: Lessons from efforts to support sustainable development and forest conservation in Indonesia

March 2013

Executive Summary

This brief provides perspectives on the benefits of partnerships between governments and foundations. Using a case study of collaboration between the Climate and Land Use Alliance, the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Norway, we draw lessons on how to encourage partnerships and coordination between governments and foundations. Our aim is to promote a dialogue on how such partnerships can strengthen efforts to tackle social and environmental challenges.



Introduction

Forests and development

Globally, over a billion rural people depend on forest resources for all or part of their livelihoods.¹ The growing global demand for food, animal feed, fuel and fiber is driving agribusiness expansion into forests and other carbon-rich ecosystems, including those traditionally managed by indigenous peoples and local communities. When forests are cleared, the people dependent on them lose access to a traditional source of their livelihoods while forest nations lose an important natural resource that could be managed for more sustainable economic development. The destruction of forests also releases greenhouse gases that cause climate change – which worsens global poverty and hunger, and threatens human health and security. Maintaining biodiverse, native forests and diversifying sustainable agricultural systems benefits people’s livelihoods and food security, maintains the essential services that forests provide including watershed and biodiversity protection, and mitigates climate change while increasing local and regional resilience to a changing climate.

Countries have demonstrated the feasibility of sustainably growing their economies while decreasing deforestation. In Brazil, the introduction of new policies and civil society’s role in advocating for regulation and enforcement of these policies has already resulted in significant decreases in land use related emissions in the country. Deforestation in Brazil is currently at its lowest rate since annual monitoring began in 1988.²

The Climate and Land Use Alliance

The Climate and Land Use Alliance is a collaborative initiative of the ClimateWorks Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.³ The Alliance seeks to catalyze the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit people, and protect the environment. With initiatives in Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Central America, and the United States, the Alliance supports efforts to help countries keep forests standing while growing their economies. The Alliance brings the substantial and diverse expertise of a multi-foundation team to develop and maintain strong relationships among partners ranging from grantees and contractors, to other donors, government agencies, and the private sector.

¹ Forest resources provide 30% or more of the cash and non-cash incomes of a significant number of households living in and near forests. Shepherd, G. 2012. IUCN; World Bank.

² Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research. Monitoring the Brazilian Amazon forest by satellite. Available at <http://www.obt.inpe.br/prodes/index.php>

³ The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation works in alignment with the Alliance and supports its strategies by implementing site-specific activities.



Government-Foundation Collaboration: A Case Study

An opportunity for sustainable development in Indonesia

Indonesia is among the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, with the vast majority of the country's greenhouse gas emissions coming from deforestation and peatland clearing. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the sustainable management and conservation of forests (collectively referred to as REDD+) is a global effort to provide developing countries with the economic incentives needed to maintain their forests. While REDD+ was emerging as a promising concept that could catalyze low emissions development in countries like Indonesia, at the time, the financial incentives needed to support major reform were not in place.

The landmark Norway-Indonesia agreement

Building on decades of work by civil society organizations, international partners, and the Indonesian Government to conserve the country's forests, in May 2010, the Governments of Norway and Indonesia announced a \$1 billion USD pledge to support Indonesia's efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation – a sum that presented an opportunity to support transformation of the Indonesian forest sector and drew international attention to the issue of financing REDD+.

The Alliance's collaboration with Indonesia and Norway

The Governments of Indonesia and Norway initially engaged the Climate and Land Use Alliance to provide informal input into the development of the Letter of Intent for the Norway-Indonesia agreement. As a key early deliverable of this agreement, Indonesia's Presidential Working Unit for Supervision and Management of Development (UKP4) established the REDD+ Task Force. At the request of the Head of UKP4 and the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, the Alliance provided financial support for technical and managerial expertise to build UKP4's efforts to establish and oversee the REDD+ Task Force. In addition to collaborating with government partners, the Alliance also supported civil society organizations, including Kemitraan and Sekala, in their efforts to contribute to the developing REDD+ process in Indonesia.

A catalyst for future policy change?

Norway's commitments on payments to Indonesia, as well as to Brazil and Guyana, have had early successes as catalysts of policy change. Multilateral and bilateral-supported activities of this type establish important precedents, provide significant flows of money for action on reducing deforestation, and send signals for how incentive-based payments might work on a larger scale in the future.



Lessons

Achievements of the Indonesia, Norway, and Climate and Land Use Alliance experience and lessons for government-foundation partnerships⁴

IMPACTS OF COLLABORATION	LESSONS
<p>The Governments of Norway and Indonesia initially engaged the Climate and Land Use Alliance informally, which established strong relationships from which further collaboration developed.</p>	<p>→ Foundations can engage informally with governments about needs and priorities, rather than approaching partnerships with rigid requirements.</p>
<p>When other sources of funding were not available, the Alliance provided a bridging grant to support the capacity of Indonesia’s REDD+ Task Force during its early stages of development.</p>	<p>→ Foundations can be nimble and responsive to needs as they emerge, and are often able to do so more rapidly than others⁴.</p>
<p>The Alliance continues to meet regularly with the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative and Indonesian REDD+ Task Force to update on progress, align priorities, and leverage capacities and resources.</p>	<p>→ Foundations can offer expertise and capacity, and collaborate with governments as knowledge partners.</p>
<p>In Indonesia, the Ford Foundation office in Jakarta served as a unique space for civil society organizations and bilateral donors to meet, discuss concerns, and propose solutions.</p>	<p>→ Foundations can play a convening role to help connect citizens with government agencies through public engagement processes.</p>
<p>In addition to working in collaboration with the Governments of Indonesia and Norway, the Alliance provided support to civil society organizations’ engagement with the development of REDD+ in Indonesia.</p>	<p>→ Foundations can support civil society’s critical role at the grassroots and national policy level, which complements direct engagement with governments.</p>

⁴ International Development Committee - Thirteenth Report: Private Foundations. UK Parliament 2012. Available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmintdev/1557/155702.htm>.



Conclusion

Foundations' contributions to partnerships with government

Estimates indicate that private foundations account for approximately 12% of global philanthropic giving for international development⁵. While the scale of this financing is small relative to contributions from public donors, foundations can prioritize strategic interventions, aim to fill important gaps, and seek out catalytic roles and opportunities.

Lessons from established government-foundation partnerships demonstrate that successful partnerships:

- Enable both government and foundation partners with aligned priorities to leverage capabilities and financial resources to the greatest impact and effectiveness; and
- Capitalize on the unique capacities each sector contributes to these collaborations.

Government-foundation partnerships have the potential to strengthen approaches to development to achieve greater impact and more sustainable results. Incorporating government-foundation partnerships into a new development framework will support broader efforts to tackle some of the greatest social and environmental challenges the world will face.

Contact Us

For further information, please contact us at:

Climate and Land Use Alliance
235 Montgomery Street, 13th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

info@climateandlandusealliance.org

www.climateandlandusealliance.org

⁵ The Role of Private Foundations in Development. International Development Committee HC 1557: Written evidence submitted by DFID. UK Parliament 2012. Available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmintdev/1557/1557we10.htm>



Climate and Land Use Alliance

Cultivating solutions for people and the planet



Policy Brief

Encouraging Government-Foundation Partnerships:
Lessons from efforts to support sustainable
development and forest conservation in Indonesia

March 2013



www.climateandlandusealliance.org